

January 21, 2002

## Mutombo Fits Into Dunlap's Success Formula

Now in his fifth season as head coach of the Metro State Roadrunner men's basketball team, Mike Dunlap is considered one of the best college basketball coaches in the country.

In 2000, Metro State won the NCAA Division II National Championship – Colorado's first-ever national collegiate basketball title at any level.

Dunlap passed on Mutombo the first time but is glad he took a second look.

Dunlap has extremely high standards and a demanding regimen. He's the first to admit that his basketball program is not for everyone.

Yet, he's also willing to take risks with new recruits, and to be patient in bringing players along. Perhaps no better example is this season's star player Patrick Mutombo.

After two years of limited action, the 6'5" junior forward from Liege, Belgium, has emerged as one of the top players in the RMAC. Named RMAC Player of the Week, Dec. 10, Mutombo scored 34 points against Great Falls Montana on Dec. 18, and is presently averaging 18 points per game – tops in the conference.

Mutombo's presence at Metro State is a story of overcoming adversity, the power of faith, Dunlap's willingness to take risks and his ability to look beyond the obvious when evaluating talent. It is a story that begins in Kinshasa, Congo, where Patrick was born, and leads to Europe, where his father, a geneticist, settled his family after fleeing the violence in Africa.

One day early in Mike Dunlap's tenure at Metro State, Belgium-based missionary Fred Young of Denver brought a group of young international ballplayers to the PE Events Center for him to "check out." Young's church sponsors families fleeing famine, revolution, and violent uprisings in Africa. He was traveling across the country trying to find schools that might be interested in offering athletic scholarships to some of the young men accompanying him.

Coach Dunlap "took a pass," that first year. The next year, he remembers vividly. Pastor Young came

around again and bumped into Dunlap in the halls of the Events Center. Among the group was a young man named Patrick Mutombo Kabongo. Tall and slender, Patrick indicated he'd played club basketball in Europe.

"I saw some raw talent and ability," Dunlap recalls. "He was very smart and academically capable. (Patrick speaks five languages.) We offered him a scholarship, knowing his maturation was going to be a long, slow process."

Young and the group, including Mutombo, went on to visit other campuses, but afterwards, Mutombo accepted Dunlap's offer to play for Metro State. The rest is history.

"We knew it would be a slow process and that Patrick would need time and structure to develop," said Dunlap. Playing in Europe, Mutombo had only managed to work out twice a week and had never had any strength and conditioning training. "He started weight-lifting, took his work outs seriously, and he gave all he had." In the classroom, Mutombo, who speaks five languages (French, German, English, and two dialects of Congan), also worked hard. He is majoring in political science and plans to graduate in 2003.

As a freshman, Mutombo saw limited action during the Roadrunner's National Championship season, playing in only 20 of 37 contests and averaging just over eight minutes per game. During that first year, he averaged 3.5 points and 1.4 rebounds per game. Last season, his sophomore year, Mutombo started twice and played in 20 for a total of 175 minutes.

"This year he's stronger, quicker, and with his seven-foot wingspan, he has become one of the better players in the conference," Dunlap said. "Because of his quickness, he's hard to guard, he can either go inside or step out and hit the jumper. He's an excellent outside shooter, and he hits practically all his free throws."

As the regular season nears the end, the Roadrunners look forward to post-season play, and however far the team gets, Dunlap will consider this year a success, thanks to players like Mutombo, who will be winners, no matter what.

The Roadrunners are home this weekend against Ft. Hays. To read more about the team, go to <http://www.mscd.edu/~runners/>



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## **Channel 9's Ed Sardella Helps Revamp Broadcast Journalism**

Kenn Bisio sees a new vision for Journalism schools and he's recruited the help of semi-retired Channel 9 news anchor, Ed Sardella, to help the department revamp the broadcast journalism curriculum.

"Ed (Sardella) was waiting for someone to call him and utilize his services and expertise and I was the first to call," says Bisio. Ironically other area colleges and universities that teach Journalism use a textbook Sardella wrote. "We lucked out and now have this phenomenal expert who can advise us about industry trends but also bring experts to campus through a series of seminars he's agreed to organize for Metro," says Bisio.

The buzz from current and former students is overwhelmingly supportive of the changes. "Students as well as employers are expecting us to prepare a workforce for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. We can do that but it'll just take some time to figure out what needs to be tweaked and what needs to be overhauled with the curriculum," adds Bisio.

Bisio and Sardella see "video journalists" – individual reporter-technicians who gather, write, shoot, and even edit stories – as the future for the industry. It's not necessarily a new idea. Smaller news outlets and small-market TV stations have been relying on single-person crews for many years. But now this trend is being seen in the larger news markets and organizations.

For Bisio, that means more competition for fewer jobs. It also means that the more technically savvy students with generalist skills will snag plumb jobs. "'J' schools need to cultivate more multitalented journalists. You look at the evolution of news on the Internet, and video-journalism and we're well behind the curve in how we're training our students," adds Bisio.

He sees every Metro Broadcast Journalism student trained as "digital journalists," who tell stories with not only video and sound, but also graphics, still images, and text. It's that vision that drives the new chair of the combined Department of Communication Arts and Sciences, and former chair of the Journalism

department, to look for partnerships on and off-campus that will help our students succeed.

“We have some ideas about strengthening the senior experience with more hands-on training through Student Publication’s print, online and radio outlets. We also want to see how we can work more closely with Technical Communications because they are doing some innovative things with their students as well,” Bisio says.